

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01117 251634Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----251640Z 110502 /50

O R 251610Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5503  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1117

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR RH ZA US  
SUBJECT: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONVERSATION WITH  
JOSHUA NKOMO

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES AND A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF SAW JOSHUA NKOMO FRIDAY, APRIL 22. THE CONVERSATION WAS FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE. MILES WAS IMPRESSED BY NKOMO'S INTEREST IN PURSUING A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE OWEN PROPOSAL.

2. THE FIRST SUBJECT OF THE CONVERSATION CENTERED AROUND US PARTICIPATION. NKOMO EXPRESSED HIS HOPE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH THE US AND DESIRE FOR US SUPPORT OF ANY CONFERENCE RESULT. HE REMAINED OPPOSED TO ACTUAL US PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. OUTSIDERS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO DEMANDS TO PARTICIPATION BY  
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OTHERS, INCLUDING THE SOVIETS. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO OBSERVERS, INCLUDING FRONTLINE STATES.

3. THE SECOND SUBJECT RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF OTHER NATIONALISTS. HERE NKOMO REMAINED OBDURATE INSISTING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE WITH THOSE DOING THE FIGHTING, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, ALTHOUGH MILES POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE

OF ALL POLITICAL GROUPS BEING REPRESENTED AT A DISCUSSION OF  
A POLITICAL CONSTITUTION.

4. NKOMO EXPRESSED HIS SKEPTICISM OF THE VALUE OF DRAWING  
UP A CONSTITUTION WITHOUT A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW IT COULD BE  
BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AND HE NOTED THE HARM WHICH COULD COME  
FROM DIVERTING ATTENTION TO DRAWING UP A DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD  
"LIE AROUND GATHERING DUST". NKOMO ALSO SPOKE OF HIS CONCERN  
THAT THE US AND UK WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY OPPOSED TO AN INTERNAL  
SETTLEMENT. MILES REPLIED BY NOTING THE FOREIGN SECRETARY  
REJECTED THE BISHOP'S PROPOSAL FOR A REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD  
HAVE BEEN THE VEHICLE FOR SUPPORT OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

5. MILES SUGGESTED THAT NKOMO DISCUSS THE MATTER DIRECTLY  
WITH OWEN IN EARLY MAY WHEN THE ZAPU LEADER EXPECTED TO  
BE IN EUROPE. NKOMO SAID HE WOULD CONSULT MUGABE.

6 AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NKOMO HAS ASKED TO SEE ME  
TOMORROW AFTERNOON AT 4 PM LOCAL TIME (10 AM WASHINGTON  
TIME). I EXPECT MANY OF THE SAME SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED.

LOW

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PDEV, RH, ZA, US, UK, (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (MILES)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009